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## BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

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*La Révolution industrielle et les origines de la protection légale de travail en Suisse.* By WILLIAM E. RAPPARD. [Collections d'études économiques Suisses.] Berne: Staempfli et Cie, 1914. 8vo, pp. vii+343. Fr. 8.75.

This volume is announced by its author as a response to a demand of the commission on the protection of labor and on industrial hygiene and preventive measures in connection with the Swiss National Exposition of 1914. Professor Rappard occupies the chair of economic history in the University of Geneva, and was formerly assistant professor of political economy at Harvard. As the title indicates, the work is historical. It is divided into three parts. The first presents an account of the industrial situation of Switzerland prior to the year 1798, discussing geographic, political, and religious conditions, and the distribution and organization of the principal industries. The second takes up the industrial revolution, covering the period from 1798 to 1848, during which time the shifting of political conditions was almost as great a factor in the industrial life of the country as was the introduction of machinery. The third part opens with a review of the legal protection afforded prior to 1798, other chapters discussing child labor and its protection, and the rise of a factory working class, and the protection of adult labor.

The standpoint of the author can be inferred from his opening quotation from Macaulay to the effect that a study of the past disproves the charge of the rise of new social evils in modern times, the truth being that that which is new is the intelligence that discovers the evils and the humanity that relieves them. This view Professor Rappard questions, adopting rather the position of Marx that labor legislation is a child of the industrial revolution, being its "necessary product"; and that before the introduction of modern machinery and the movement of industry from the home to the factory, such legislation was neither necessary nor possible.

Much interest attaches to the study because of the distinctive nature of the various political and industrial units under consideration, and because of the obvious influences exerted by the differing racial and religious types. The practical independence of the cantons and the varieties of governmental ideas—democratic, aristocratic, ecclesiastic, and

monarchical—were also elements affecting the nature and opportunity of industrial development. Other influences noted were the international trade routes, the local tariffs, and the wide range of physical features of the different cantons.

At the beginning of the period covered, the mediaeval privileges of patrons still held their ground in some localities, and the rivalry between town and country restrained free and uniform industrial development to a marked degree. The two great divisions of Swiss industry—the textile trades and watchmaking—afforded wide contrasts in the readiness with which they were affected by the introduction of the factory system, and also in respect to the relative status of the different classes of workers engaged in them. It is hardly necessary to say that it was in behalf of the children employed in the textile industries that the beginnings of factory legislation were made; and if there seems to have been great difficulty in securing its enactment, and great irregularity of progress in the different cantons, the differences of racial and economic development are found to furnish a part of the explanation, and the severe competition of the English spinners and weavers another part; while the apparent defects in direct labor legislation will be found to be offset in large measure by advanced and fairly well-enforced requirements as to school attendance.

Interesting pre-revolutionary developments are the enactment of a minimum-wage law (1674 and 1717) by the paternally disposed aristocracy of Zurich, though with a curious mingling of motives of self-protection with those of care for the workers; the establishment of maximum and minimum piece-rates for the ribbon workers of Basle as a check to the ruinous competition among manufacturers; and a more interesting and more unselfish early child-labor law of Zurich (1779) that affected the entire cotton-spinning industry in seeking to protect young children from the hardships of a peculiar system of homework under parental employment known as *Rastgeben*. Another item of a present-day savor was the creation in 1789 by a decree of the canton of Basle of a benefit fund for the relief of the ribbon-weavers of its rural districts.

These efforts at protective legislation, though sporadic and of mixed motives, and preceding the development of the factory system, show the nature of the influences under which it was introduced. With the sweeping away of all restrictions on freedom in the days of the revolution, and the almost contemporaneous rise of the factory system, conditions speedily became so abhorrent that remedial measures were demanded. Children of six or eight years of age were employed 15 or 16 hours daily,

or throughout the entire night, and had not even the poor benefit of parental care when released from the dust-laden air of the spinning-room. The movement in their behalf is traced to the intervention primarily of the school authorities, and from about 1812 the agitation was so persistent and definite that, both by the operation of law and by the force of public opinion, advantages were soon gained for the child workers, though the work of relief was far from complete as late as 1870.

The first legislation of the modern régime was an ordinance of the council of Zurich (1815), fixing the age for beginning work at nine years and requiring an age and schooling certificate from the ecclesiastical authorities of the parish of the child's residence, with provision for a continuation course in religious instruction. The time of beginning work was not to be before five in summer and six in winter, and work might continue not more than 12 or 14 hours per day. Other provisions related to care for morals in the shops and at the lodging-places and for the enforcement of the law; so that as a whole it wore quite a modern aspect and was a great advance over the law of 1779 of the same canton. Later in 1815 the canton of Thurgovie adopted the law of Zurich, strengthening it in some of its weaker points, notably in forbidding night work by "young persons," though not accurately defining this class.

The first Swiss law of general application to workers was one of Glaris of the year 1848, fixing the hours of labor in spinning mills at not more than 14 per day, or 13 by day and 11 by night, where operation was continuous. Other legislation and attempted legislation is noted, but these are pioneers, and typical of the achievements of the times under consideration. Imperfect as they were, and inadequately enforced, they had nevertheless to encounter the opposition of the manufacturers, both attitude and argument being of a style most familiar to anyone reading the accounts of present-day attempts to secure the enactment of similar laws. One somewhat surprising item is the opposition by referendum in some cantons to the enactment of laws for the benefit of the very persons offering the opposition, though the reason may be found in the fact that in the hostile cantons the factory system had not reached such a development as to impress the necessity for the type of laws under consideration. The individualistic ideas of Latin Switzerland were also more opposed to the conception of a regulated contract than were the more socialized views of the German cantons.

The author refrains from attempting logical deductions as not compatible with a simple descriptive and narrative historical study. Nevertheless there are frequent indications of clearly conceived conclusions

as well as pleasing glimpses of philosophy that afford variety in the midst of sober statements of fact, though no one can charge the work with wearisome detail or dogmatic generalization.

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*Pan-Americanism. A Forecast of the Inevitable Clash between the United States and Europe's Victor.* By ROLAND G. USHER. New York: Century Co., 1915. 8vo, pp. xix+466. \$2.00.

Despite the mild attraction of the main title and the somewhat sensational appeal of the subordinate one, the content of this book handles primarily neither of the topics suggested. Instead, the author declares it his purpose to "make as clear as possible . . . the relation of the United States to the present European situation and to the probable or possible crisis which the end of the war may precipitate" (p. vii). The major part of the volume, he asserts, is "devoted to the present condition of the United States and of Latin America, with especial attention to Pan-Americanism as a possible solution of American problems" (p. vii). If the declaration be accurate, the reader wonders why the main title was selected; if the assertion be correct, he is equally at a loss to understand why the subordinate title was chosen. His dubiety deepens when he discovers, on actual examination of the text, that only 123 pages, or a fraction more than a fourth of the book, deal directly with Pan-Americanism at all, that 127 more have reference to Latin America or some part of it, and that nearly half of the entire work bears simply on a variety of foreign issues or eventualities that may concern the United States.

An unusually elaborate table of contents shows that, after a foreword relating to American problems and the war, the treatise has four principal divisions given over, respectively, to a consideration of "The United States," "The Victor," "Pan-Americanism," and "The Future." As its themes, the first discusses the foundations of American independence, the supremacy of the sea, South America and the West Indies, the supremacy of the Western Hemisphere and our present strategic position. Similarly, the second treats European policies and motives, the "rediscovery" of South America, probabilities of German aggression—which, apparently, turn out to be unlikely—possibilities of English aggression—which are shown, seemingly, to be probabilities—rights of neutrals,